

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An external skin preparation comprising:
  - (1) octyl methoxycinnamate,
  - (2) oxide selected from the group consisting of titanium oxide, zinc oxide and mixtures thereof, wherein the said oxides are treated in a hydrophobic manner selected from the group consisting of methyl hydrogen polysiloxane and silane coupling agents, metal soap processing fluorine processing with perfluoroalkylphosphate diethanolamine salt and perfluoroalkylsilane and processing with dextrin fatty acid ester, and
  - (3) glucoside selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene methyl glucoside, polyoxypropylene methyl glucoside and mixture thereof.
2. (original) An external skin preparation according to claim 1, which is a sun-screening cosmetic.
3. (currently amended) An agent for reducing the skin irritation

of octyl methoxycinnamate in an external skin preparation comprising:

- (1) octyl methoxycinnamate,
- (2) oxide selected from the group consisting of titanium oxide, zinc oxide and mixtures thereof, wherein the oxides are treated in a hydrophobic manner selected from the group consisting of methyl hydrogen polysiloxane and silane coupling agents, metal soap processing fluorine processing with perfluoroalkylphosphate diethanolamine salt and perfluoroalkylsilane and processing with dextrin fatty acid ester, and
- (3) glucoside selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene methyl glucoside, polyoxypropylene methyl glucoside and mixture thereof.

4. (currently amended) A method of reducing the skin irritation of octyl methoxycinnamate in an external skin preparation comprising:

- (1) octyl methoxycinnamate,
- (2) oxide selected from the group consisting of titanium oxide, zinc oxide and mixtures thereof, wherein the oxides are treated in a hydrophobic manner selected from the group consisting of methyl hydrogen polysiloxane and silane coupling agents, metal soap

processing fluorine processing with  
perfluoroalkylphosphate diethanolamine salt and  
perfluoroalkylsilane and processing with dextrin fatty  
acid ester, and

- (3) glucoside selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene methyl glucoside, polyoxypropylene methyl glucoside and mixture thereof.

5. (previously presented) An external preparation according to claim 1, wherein the octyl methoxycinnamate is at least 10% by weight.

6. (previously presented) An external preparation according to claim 1, wherein the octyl methoxycinnamate is in the range of 1.0 to 15% by weight.

7. (previously presented) An external preparation according to claim 6, wherein the octyl methoxycinnamate is in the range of 2.0 to 10% by weight.